

JULY 1941

June 28, 1937.

RECORDED

24-8-117-5

Mr. John S. Bugas,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
507 Federal Building,
Box 2778,
Juneau, Alaska.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2012 BY SP7/m

REIN 15 UNCLERSON SP 7 MAR 1943
c 4-24-90 BY SP 7 MAR 1943

Dear Mr. Buxton:

I received your letter of June 18, 1937 in which you advised me of a meeting which you had with Mr. Ernie Pyle of the Scripps-Howard chain of newspapers, who at the present time is in Alaska. I wanted to let you know how deeply appreciative I am of your writing me about this matter and of the manner in which you handled the subject matter in conversation with Mr. Pyle. It makes me feel quite good to know I have such a loyal representative, both officially and personally, as I have in you.

Of course, what Mr. Pyle has to say relative to seeking publicity I think was adequately answered by you. No persons can get publicity unless the press willingly gives it to them and I know in many instances I have gone out of my way to avoid getting in the spotlight, because personally it is distasteful. There are times, however, when it cannot be avoided, and of course then one has to take it the best way he can. Certainly, I believe Mr. Pyle is sufficiently versed in newspaper work to know that no one, irrespective of how badly he may seek publicity, can ever get it by paying for it either directly or indirectly. It is a voluntary act of the press and it has always made me smile when I hear this criticism made because usually it comes from some individual who is suffering from the ailment which I have been prone to analyze as mental balitosis.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILER

JUN 28 1937

P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

In regard to my favoring any particular representative of the press, that of course is untrue. Naturally, when I have found some newspaper or representative of a paper hostile and unfriendly to the Bureau or to me I have refrained from contacting them. This is but human, but when any releases are made concerning the work of the Bureau they are not made by me but through the publicity office of the Department, and neither Rex Cellier nor any other representative has been given any special favors or privileges here.

I think Mr. Pyle may be somewhat wrong as to the general attitude of the Scripps-Howard papers toward me, because Mr. Roy Howard, one of the owners of the Scripps-Howard papers, is a good personal friend. It is a fact that some of the individual papers of that chain are unfriendly and I believe that is particularly true of the Washington Daily News with which Mr. Pyle is associated. That paper has been extremely radical in its general views, and it always seems to take the side against effective law enforcement or anything they feel may savor of Fascism in their stretch of the imagination.

I think the manner in which you handled the conversation with Mr. Pyle may be productive of straightening him out, and I want to thank you for the way in which you did handle it.

With expressions of my best regards and good wishes,
I am

Sincerely yours,

AIR MAIL

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. Department of Justice

507 Federal Building
Box 2778
Juneau, Alaska
June 16, 1937

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

DECLASSIFIED BY
ON 4-24-92

On the trip up to Juneau from Seattle, which consumed the time between May 18, and May 23, I met and became slightly acquainted with Mr. Ernie Pyle, who, as you perhaps know, is a syndicated writer for the Scripps-Howard chain of newspapers. Mr. Pyle's residence and headquarters, as I understand, are in Washington, D. C. and I have later learned that he for a time was the City Editor of the Scripps-Howard Paper in Washington. Mr. Pyle's column appears daily, I am informed, in all the newspapers of the Scripps-Howard chain in the United States.

RECORDED & INDEXED

94-8-117-5

On the boat, of course, I did not become intimately acquainted with INVESTIGATION
Mr. Pyle nor was he aware of my identity as an Agent of the Bureau. However, after my arrival in Juneau and setting up an Office here I was visited by Mr. Pyle, who is touring Alaska, spending the summer here getting material for his column. He had apparently read local accounts of the opening of a Bureau Office and called on this Office as a matter of interest. During our conversation at the time of his visit he did not attempt to make any inquiries whatsoever that in order to be answered would require the divulging of any information. However, during the conversation he mentioned the Bureau and his experiences therewith in his newspaper work in Washington and commented that the Scripps-Howard Newspapers are not at this time friendly toward you. He stated that the Scripps-Howard management and personnel felt keen admiration for the work and success of the F. B. I. but that they felt to some extent the ill will toward you more or less personally. In order that I could better advise you I attempted to find the reason for this ill will and Pyle stated that it was due to the fact that the Scripps-Howard Papers feel, particularly in Washington, D. C., that you were discriminating against their representatives and reporters in giving out information and releases. He stated that his paper felt that you were favoring particularly one Rex Collier, who is connected with the Washington Star. He said that he recalls instances when he, as well as others, of his paper have felt that they had not been given an even break with Collier in obtaining important press releases pertaining to Bureau activities. He further

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Balboa Heights
Canal Zone

January 17, 1940

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: CONTACTS
CANAL ZONE

Dear Sir:

On January 3, 1940 I had occasion to meet Mr. Ernie Pyle, feature writer for the Scripps Howard Newspaper Syndicate, who is presently on a tour of Central and South America.

Mr. Pyle was introduced to me by Mr. Ted Scott, Editor of the Panama American and I had Mr. Pyle, together with Mr. Scott and Mr. L. A. McIntire to lunch. Mr. Pyle was very friendly and told me about a trip he made to Alaska in 1937 at which time he became acquainted with the Special Agent in Charge of the ~~Juneau~~ Office and informed me that he wrote an article on the Bureau and received a very nice letter from the Director expressing his appreciation. Mr. Pyle's attitude was very cordial and I found him a very interesting person to talk with.

He is apparently covering this area now and intends to proceed through Costa Rica and Nicaragua and then down through the South American countries, returning to Washington sometime in the Spring.

Very truly yours,

Roger F. Gleason
Roger F. Gleason
Special Agent in Charge

RFG hcs

RECORDED & INDEXED

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CCPV

EMH:AEK:MCL

July 1, 1937.

Mr. Ernie Pyle,
c/o Washington Daily News,
1013 Thirteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-24-99 BY SP7mac/tee

Dear Mr. Pyle:

My attention has been called to your column entitled "Ernie Discovers He's Old Pals With Alaska's New G-Man," which appeared in the June 28, 1937, issue of the Washington Daily News.

The article is most interesting and I want to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation for the manner in which you wrote concerning Mr. J. S. Bugas, Special Agent in Charge of this Bureau's Juneau, Alaska, Field Division.

Sincerely yours,

(s) J. Edgar Hoover.

CC-Juneau, Alaska.

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DISCOV

IN THE PNAE

Juneau, Alaska—when I arrived in Juneau the papers were full of stories about the new G-Man.

It had been set up by the Justice Department to establish a permanent Alaska office. It is the first time the G-Men have invaded this cold country where men are rough and tough.

The new G-Man was interviewed, and he spoke on the radio, and he addressed the Chamber of Commerce, and Juneau seemed quite excited over its new Public Figure No. 1.

Well, Gov. John Troy invited me out to the mansion for a cocktail party. About 40 people were there, and I didn't know a soul except one girl who was acting as hostess for the Governor. I hung onto her as long as I could, but finally she had to go and receive some more guests, so I backed into a corner and surveyed the crowd.

Pyle Suddenly I saw a familiar face. It was a man who had been on our boat from Seattle to Wrangell before I got off. He was standing in the middle of a group of people and seemed to be doing very well for himself.

We saw each other about the same time, and he broke out of the crowd and started across, and we met, shaking hands, in the middle of the room, practically like Stanley and Dr. Livingstone.

I couldn't say "Dr. Livingstone, I believe," for I had forgotten his name. But he told me, and who do you suppose he was? Yep, the new G-Man for Alaska. Of course, coming

dinner.

Well, the tip-off of it was that we'd never seen him before. And now we eat our meals together and sit around and talk. Like me when I go to visit my old college roommates. He's a mighty nice fellow.

His name is John S. Bugas. He's originally from Laramie, Wyo. He is 29 years old, a law school graduate, former college track team, wears nice clothes, and has been here for two years. He doesn't know anything about the old country now, but he'll know a lot a year hence. He has already had an Alaskan experience.

Seems there's an old trapper on one of the islands who has been missing for months. Occasionally someone thinks he sees him in the woods, and it is generally believed he has gone off his nut. The newspaper's call him a "wild man."

Well, somebody thought he saw him on an island the other day and a posse went after him. They brought him back, all right, but it wasn't the right man. It was an old prospector whose boat had gone dead on him, and he had been wandering the island for a couple of weeks. He was pretty well done in.

He wasn't a criminal, but as a matter of routine the authorities put him on the pan to get his story. Bugas sat in on the questioning.

It seems the prospector had got all his gear ashore from the boat, and set up camp and built a fire, and then a park caught his mattress and everything he had was burned.

Well, he wandered around the island and couldn't find much to eat. After about a week he ran onto a lighthouse tender's cabin, and the tender asked him in for supper. The man was a pretty sight by that time, having been alone in the woods a week.

Alaska's New G-Man

They sat down to eat, but after a few moments the tender excused himself, and said he had to go outside. That made our refugee mad. He thought the light tender was insulting him because he was so dirty and in such a shape, so he jumped up and yelled and ran into the woods again. And it was a couple of days later that the posse found him.

When he got to the point in his story where he ran out of the cabin, Bugas, the new G-Man, said: "Weren't you a little too sensitive to get mad over that and run away from your food?"

Whereupon the still unkempt "wild man" glared at him and yelled, "Shut up, you cheechako!" That's the Alaskan term for "greenhorn" or "tenderfoot." The new G-Man says he shut up, all right.

This summer Bugas will travel all over Alaska, getting familiar with the country and making investigations. We're planning to hit the same ship on a little trip over west about a month from now. He'll probably be traveling under cover, and I'll be the only one on the whole boat who knows he's a G-Man. Wonder if I can keep my mouth shut?

Bugas has a stack of files a foot high of cases he has to investigate. If they all turn out to be guilty there won't be anybody left in Alaska but Bugas and me. Or maybe just Bugas.

Bugas is a crack shot, of course. He has to be to hold his job, but he was already a marksman before joining the service. He's nuts on hunting mountain game and in Wyoming and Montana has killed bears and cats and all kinds of deer.

He says he's going to bring a rifle along on his trip and will do a little target shooting when we get over west. Which seems to me a very silly idea. I can beat the major of Petersburg with a 22, but I should get mixed up in a shooting match with the Department of Justice! No, sir.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-24-90 BY SP7matis

WASH NEWS

94-8-117-6

Director--June 16, 1937--2

stated that the animosity that his paper felt toward you was due to what he described as your desire for personal publicity.

On learning the reason for the animosity his paper felt toward you I took rather heated issue with him on the matter and stated that any feeling he or his paper had about your being desirous for personal publicity was completely unfounded, that in my opinion it was perfectly natural for the head of any organization as much in the public eye as the Bureau to receive personal publicity regardless of his personal desire to do so. I further stated the emphatic opinion that I did not think that any news agency was being discriminated against by you or anybody in the Bureau unless it was because of some good reason.

Mr. Pyle did not take offense at my remarks, which I stated emphatically but without desire to personally offend him. He left the Office apparently in the best of humor.

I am transmitting the above information to you for whatever value or interest it might have.

Yours very truly,

John S. Bugas.
John S. Bugas
Special Agent in Charge

JSB:JA